



P.B.5818 - Patentlaan 2  
2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)  
+31 70 340 2040  
TX 31651 epo nl  
FAX +31 70 340 3016

Europäisches  
Patentamt

Zweigstelle  
in Den Haag  
Recherchen-  
abteilung

European  
Patent Office

Branch at  
The Hague  
Search  
division

Office européen  
des brevets

Département à  
La Haye  
Division de la  
recherche

Schwabe - Sandmair - Marx  
Stutzstrasse 16  
81677 München  
ALLEMAGNE

Datum/Date

16.06.04

Zeichen/Ref./Réf.  
54 637 VI

Anmeldung Nr./Application No./Demande n°./Patent Nr./Patent No./Brevet n°.  
04007639.0-2314-

Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire  
Ricoh Company Ltd.

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

abstract       title

The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: 3A

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 04 00 7639

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	US 6 361 038 B1 (IMADA DAISUKE ET AL) 26 March 2002 (2002-03-26) * the whole document *	1-3, 17, 18	B65H1/04 B65H7/04
A	US 4 888 617 A (OKUZAWA TUGIO) 19 December 1989 (1989-12-19) * abstract; figures 1-3 *	1-3, 17, 18	
A,D	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2000, no. 07, 29 September 2000 (2000-09-29) & JP 2000 118792 A (RICOH CO LTD), 25 April 2000 (2000-04-25) * abstract *	1-3	
-----			
FILED 3-23-04			
TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)			
B65H			
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
1	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	MUNICH	26 May 2004	Rupprecht, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone		T : theory or principle underlying the invention	
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category		E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date	
A : technological background		D : document cited in the application	
O : non-written disclosure		L : document cited for other reasons	
P : intermediate document		.....	
		& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 04 00 7639

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

26-05-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 6361038	B1	26-03-2002	JP	2000327175 A		28-11-2000
US 4888617	A	19-12-1989	JP	63218453 A		12-09-1988
JP 2000118792	A	25-04-2000	NONE			

**THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)**